



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 20, 2016

Agenda Item: Snowmobile Grooming Grants

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Concurrence

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background (Brief description of the issue, decision to be made, history, etc.):

Montana's Snowmobile Program provides annual grooming grants to organized Clubs statewide for their winter operational funding. The 26 Clubs in the Program groom over 4,000 miles of snowmobile trails during the winter use season. The funds are utilized for fuel, groomer repairs, and other expenses over the course of the season.

Annually, the grooming fund allocation has been the \$385,000 - \$400,000 range for many years; last season's allocation was \$386,601. The first year of implementation of the new Trail Pass for Montana residents (HB 300 - 2015 Legislative Session) occurred over the 2015/2016 winter use season. As a result, it was possible to increase the grooming allocation to each Club by 12% this cycle over last season's. This increase is the first substantial change Snowmobile Grooming Program has seen and is a testament to the success of the first year of implementation.

The citizen's Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SAC) was involved with and is fully supportive of the decision to begin awarding the additional funding generated from the Trail Pass proceeds to the grooming program.

Public Involvement Process & Results (Brief description of the type of public involvement and summary of what we heard from the public):

A public comment period was initiated on July 6th and ended on August 5th. A total of three comments were received, all in support of the proposed grooming fund allocations.

Alternatives and Analysis (Brief description of alternative solutions with analysis of the pros and cons of each):

Alt. #1 – grant the 26 Montana Snowmobile clubs the \$412,994 in grooming funds for the 2016/2017 winter season as proposed.

Alt. #2 – modify/reduce the proposed grooming fund allocations in some manner other than as proposed.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it):

Award the \$412,994 in grooming funds as proposed for the 2016/2017 grooming season.

Proposed Motion (Draft language the Board could use to adopt the agency recommendation):

I concur with the Division's proposal to award the Snowmobile Program grooming grants for the 2016/2017 season.